



# Environmental Justice Fact Sheet

## *Community Intern Program*

The Community Intern Program places students directly in communities to assist community-based organizations in addressing local environmental and public health issues.

Since the program was established in 2000, 169 students have been placed in local community-based organizations where they might experience environmental protection at the grassroots level and learn about methods used by these local organizations to address local environmental and/or public health issues. The program has been so successful that in subsequent years the number of intern placements has increased to 30 each year and, resources permitting, the program will continue at this level. The Community Intern Program is a terrific opportunity for EPA to strengthen existing partnerships and to create new ones with the community organizations where we work.

For a description of organizations and successful projects please visit: <http://www.eco.org>.

### Background

In 1992, the Office of Environmental Justice established a program under the cooperative agreement between EPA and the Environmental Careers Organizations, Inc. (ECO) to provide training opportunities for hundreds of college students. More than 2,500 students from all parts of the U.S., from varied ethnic backgrounds, and all academic levels (undergraduate, graduate and doctoral) have participated in the program. The students gained practical experience in science, engineering, management, education and policy-related projects. Several of these students come from Historically Black Colleges, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges & Universities, Native Hawaiian and Alaskan Native Serving Institutions, and Asian American Serving Institutions.

The original purpose of the program was to not only expose undergraduate and graduate students to the different kinds of EPA programs with the intention of attracting them into environmental careers, but to also provide EPA with a diverse group of eager young people to enhance the workforce. Soon it became clear that exposure to other environmental programs, outside of the EPA, could be beneficial to the students, since many may not pursue environmental careers, but all would live in a community. A community internship would be a good

way for them to find out about local environmental and/or public health issues and might spark an interest to get involved.

### Intern Placements

Preference for a community intern student will be given to the local community-based organizations that have not received an intern in the past. To see if your organization is eligible, go to the link:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/index.html>

Students must register with ECO to participate. They must be citizens of the United States, its territories, or possessions, or lawfully admitted to the United States with permanent residence.

In order for community organizations to have a community intern work there in the upcoming summer, a completed project description form must be submitted to ECO by January 28 of that year. The project must be to develop research or of a research nature (i.e., survey, research, collecting and analyzing data which will be used to expand scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied).

If you are a student who would be interested in this opportunity and who is currently enrolled in a college or university, or who will be enrolled by the summer of the year in which you apply, please send a resume to Liz Cavano to the address provided below. If you know of students in your community that are interested in this program, please encourage them to send a resume.

A panel will review all project descriptions and select 30 local community-based organizations to receive an intern. Each selected organization will be notified by letter. By April of each year, an announcement of the organizations selected will also be posted at:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/interns/index.html>.

For more information, please contact Liz Cavano, Intern Coordinator for ECO, (617-426-4783, Ext. 147) E-Mail: [lcavano@eco.org](mailto:lcavano@eco.org) or Renee Goins, [goins.renee@epa.gov](mailto:goins.renee@epa.gov), EPA/ECO Intern Program Coordinator, (202-564-2598).



## EPA/ECO Community Intern Program

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

**Instructions:** To request an Intern, you must complete this form, attach your project, and either fax a copy to the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) on 617-426-8159, or send it by email to [lcavano@eco.org](mailto:lcavano@eco.org).

**Name of Community Organization:**

Address:

Contact Person:

Phone/Fax:

E-mail:

Number of people in your organization:

Description of Type of Work:

**Onsite Project Advisor:**

(This person will verify time and attendance)

Phone/Fax:

Email:

**Project Description:** The project should focus on the following: (1) Specific Tasks; (2) Expected Results; and (3) Benefit to the Intern. (Please attach your project description on your organization's letterhead. No more than 1-2 paragraphs.)

If you know of a student interested in participating in this summer's Community Intern Program, please forward their resume to:

Environmental Careers Organization  
Attention: Community Intern Program  
30 Winter Street, Sixth Floor, Boston, MA 02108

or email the resume to [lcavano@eco.org](mailto:lcavano@eco.org)

All Project Description Forms must be submitted by January 28.